## AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 28, 2013 AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 1, 2013

## SENATE BILL

No. 617

## Introduced by Senator Evans (Principal coauthor: Senator DeSaulnier)

February 22, 2013

An act to amend Sections 21060.5, 21068, 21080.5, 21083.9, 21092, 21092.2, 21092.3, 21100, 21108, 21152, and 21161 of, to amend, repeal, and add Section 21167.6 of, to add and repeal Section 21167.6.2 of, and to repeal Sections 21080.01, 21080.02, 21080.03, and 21080.04 of, the Public Resources Code, relating to the California Environmental Quality Act.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 617, as amended, Evans. California Environmental Quality Act. (1) The California Environmental Quality Act, referred to as CEQA requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of, an environmental impact report, referred to as an EIR on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment.

CEQA authorizes the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to certify a regulatory program that meets specified requirements. CEQA provides that written documentation required by those certified  $SB 617 \qquad \qquad -2-$ 

regulatory programs may be submitted in lieu of an EIR. CEQA requires an administering agency to file with the secretary a notice of decision made pursuant to the certified regulatory program, which is required to be available for public inspection. CEQA requires a lead agency to call a scoping meeting for specified projects and provide a notice of the meeting to specified entities. CEQA requires the lead agency or a project proponent to file a notice of approval or determination with the Office of Planning and Research if the lead agency is a state agency or with the county clerk if the lead agency is a local agency. CEQA requires a public agency that has completed an EIR to file with the Office of Planning and Research a notice of completion.

CEQA requires a lead agency determining that an EIR is required for a project to send a notice of that determination to specified public agencies. CEQA requires a lead agency preparing an EIR, a negative declaration, or making a specified determination regarding a subsequent project to provide a public notice within a reasonable time period before the certification of the EIR, or the adoption of a negative declaration, or making the specified determination. CEQA requires those notices to be posted in the office of the county clerk in each county in which the project is located and requires the notices to remain posted for 30 days. CEQA requires the county clerk to post the notice within 24 hours of receipt.

This bill would additionally require the above mentioned notices to be filed with both the Office of Planning and Research and the county clerk and be posted by the county clerk for public review. The bill would require the county clerk to post the notices within one business day, as defined, of receipt and stamp on the notice the date on which the notices were actually posted. By expanding the services provided by the lead agency and the county clerk, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would require the county clerk to post the notices for at least 30 days. The bill would require the Office of Planning and Research to post the notices on a publicly available online database established and maintained by the office. The bill would require the office to stamp the notices with the date on which the notices were actually posted for online review and would require the notices to be posted for at least 30 days. The bill would authorize the office to charge an administrative fee not to exceed \$10 per notice filed. The bill would specify that a time period or limitation period specified by CEQA does not commence until the notice is actually posted for public review by the county clerk or is available in the online database, whichever is

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later. The bill would require the notice of determination to be filed solely by the lead agency.

(2) CEQA authorizes, for a project that is determined by a state agency to be exempted from the requirements of CEQA, a state agency or a project proponent to file a notice of determination with the Office of Planning and Research. CEQA authorizes, for a project that is determined by a local agency to be exempted from the requirements of CEQA, a local agency or a project proponent to file a notice of determination with the county clerk of the county in which the project is located.

This bill would require that notice of determination be filed with both the Office of Planning and Research and the county clerk. By requiring a county clerk to receive and post that notice of determination filed by a state agency, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would provide that notice of determination be filed by the lead agency only.

- (3) This bill would require the Office of Planning and Research and the county clerk, after the posting of the notices filed with them, to return the notice to the filing agency with a notation of the period the notice was posted. By requiring a county clerk to return the notice, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.
- (4) CEQA establishes a procedure for the preparation and certification of the record of proceedings upon the filing of an action or proceeding challenging a lead agency's action on the grounds of noncompliance with CEOA.

This bill would require, until January 1, 2017, the lead agency, at the request of a project applicant, to, among other things, prepare a record of proceedings concurrently with the preparation of negative declarations, mitigated negative declarations, EIRs, or other environmental documents for specified projects. Because the bill would require a lead agency to prepare the record of proceedings as provided, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would condition, upon the consent of a lead agency that is a state agency, the application to state agency of the concurrent preparation of the record of proceedings.

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(4) CEQA defines "environment" and "significant effect on the environment" for its purposes. CEQA requires the EIR to include a detailed statement setting forth specified facts.

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This bill would revise those definitions, as specified. This bill would additionally require the lead agency to include in the EIR a detailed statement on any significant effects that may result from locating development the proposed project near, or attracting people to, existing or reasonably foreseeable natural hazards or adverse environmental conditions. Because the lead agency would be required to undertake this additional consideration, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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(5) The bill would repeal certain exemptions from the requirements of CEQA related to the California Men's Colony West Facility, a prison facility at or in the vicinity of Corcoran, a certain prison facility in the County of King, and the Napa Valley Wine Train.

(6) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- SECTION 1. Section 21060.5 of the Public Resources Code 1 is amended to read:
- 3 21060.5. "Environment" means the physical conditions that
- exist within the area that will be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, noise, objects of
- historic or aesthetic significance, as well as the health and safety
- 7 of people affected by the physical conditions at the location of a project.
- SEC. 2. Section 21068 of the Public Resources Code is 10 amended to read:
- "Significant effect on the environment" means a 11 21068.
- substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in the 12
- 13 environment. "Significant effect on the environment" includes
- 14 exposure of people, either directly or indirectly, to substantial
- 15 existing or reasonably foreseeable natural hazard or adverse
- 16 condition of the environment.

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1 SEC. 3. Section 21080.01 of the Public Resources Code is 2 repealed.

- 3 SEC. 4. Section 21080.02 of the Public Resources Code is 4 repealed.
- 5 SEC. 5. Section 21080.03 of the Public Resources Code is 6 repealed.
- 7 SEC. 6. Section 21080.04 of the Public Resources Code is 8 repealed.

- SEC. 7. Section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:
- 21080.5. (a) Except as provided in Section 21158.1, when the regulatory program of a state agency requires a plan or other written documentation containing environmental information and complying with paragraph (3) of subdivision (d) to be submitted in support of an activity listed in subdivision (b), the plan or other written documentation may be submitted in lieu of the environmental impact report required by this division if the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency has certified the regulatory program pursuant to this section.
- (b) This section applies only to regulatory programs or portions thereof that involve either of the following:
- (1) The issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use.
- (2) The adoption or approval of standards, rules, regulations, or plans for use in the regulatory program.
- (c) A regulatory program certified pursuant to this section is exempt from Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21100), Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 21150), and Section 21167, except as provided in Article 2 (commencing with Section 21157) of Chapter 4.5.
- (d) To qualify for certification pursuant to this section, a regulatory program shall require the utilization of an interdisciplinary approach that will ensure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences in decisionmaking and that shall meet all of the following criteria:
- 36 (1) The enabling legislation of the regulatory program does both 37 of the following:
- 38 (A) Includes protection of the environment among its principal purposes.

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(B) Contains authority for the administering agency to adopt rules and regulations for the protection of the environment, guided by standards set forth in the enabling legislation.

- (2) The rules and regulations adopted by the administering agency for the regulatory program do all of the following:
- (A) Require that an activity will not be approved or adopted as proposed if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available that would substantially lessen a significant adverse effect that the activity may have on the environment.
- (B) Include guidelines for the orderly evaluation of proposed activities and the preparation of the plan or other written documentation in a manner consistent with the environmental protection purposes of the regulatory program.
- (C) Require the administering agency to consult with all public agencies that have jurisdiction, by law, with respect to the proposed activity.
- (D) Require that final action on the proposed activity include the written responses of the issuing authority to significant environmental points raised during the evaluation process.
- (E) Require the filing of a notice of the decision by the administering agency on the proposed activity pursuant to Section 21092.3.
- (F) Require notice of the filing of the plan or other written documentation to be posted pursuant to Section 21092.3 and made to the public and to a person who requests, in writing, notification. The notification shall be made in a manner that will provide the public or a person requesting notification with sufficient time to review and comment on the filing.
- (3) The plan or other written documentation required by the regulatory program does both of the following:
- (A) Includes a description of the proposed activity with alternatives to the activity, and mitigation measures to minimize any significant adverse effect on the environment of the activity.
- (B) Is available for a reasonable time for review and comment by other public agencies and the general public.
- (e) (1) The Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency shall certify a regulatory program that the secretary determines meets all the qualifications for certification set forth in this section, and withdraw certification on determination that the regulatory program has been altered so that it no longer meets those qualifications.

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Certification and withdrawal of certification shall occur only after compliance with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

- (2) In determining whether or not a regulatory program meets the qualifications for certification set forth in this section, the inquiry of the secretary shall extend only to the question of whether the regulatory program meets the generic requirements of subdivision (d). The inquiry may not extend to individual decisions to be reached under the regulatory program, including the nature of specific alternatives or mitigation measures that might be proposed to lessen any significant adverse effect on the environment of the activity.
- (3) If the secretary determines that the regulatory program submitted for certification does not meet the qualifications for certification set forth in this section, the secretary shall adopt findings setting forth the reasons for the determination.
- (f) After a regulatory program has been certified pursuant to this section, a proposed change in the program that could affect compliance with the qualifications for certification specified in subdivision (d) may be submitted to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency for review and comment. The scope of the secretary's review shall extend only to the question of whether the regulatory program meets the generic requirements of subdivision (d). The review may not extend to individual decisions to be reached under the regulatory program, including specific alternatives or mitigation measures that might be proposed to lessen any significant adverse effect on the environment of the activity. The secretary shall have 30 days from the date of receipt of the proposed change to notify the state agency whether the proposed change will alter the regulatory program so that it no longer meets the qualification for certification established in this section and will result in a withdrawal of certification as provided in this section.
- (g) An action or proceeding to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul a determination or decision of a state agency approving or adopting a proposed activity under a regulatory program that has been certified pursuant to this section on the basis that the plan or other written documentation prepared pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (d) does not comply with this section shall be commenced not later than 30 days from the date of the posting of

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1 notice of the approval or adoption of the activity pursuant to 2 Section 21092.3.

- (h) (1) An action or proceeding to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul a determination of the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to certify a regulatory program pursuant to this section on the basis that the regulatory program does not comply with this section shall be commenced within 30 days from the date of certification by the secretary.
- (2) In an action brought pursuant to paragraph (1), the inquiry shall extend only to whether there was a prejudicial abuse of discretion by the secretary. Abuse of discretion is established if the secretary has not proceeded in a manner required by law or if the determination is not supported by substantial evidence.
- (i) For purposes of this section, a county agricultural commissioner is a state agency.
- (j) For purposes of this section, an air quality management district or air pollution control district is a state agency, except that the approval, if any, by a district of a nonattainment area plan is subject to this section only if, and to the extent that, the approval adopts or amends rules or regulations.
- (k) (1) The secretary, by July 1, 2004, shall develop a protocol for reviewing the prospective application of certified regulatory programs to evaluate the consistency of those programs with the requirements of this division. Following the completion of the development of the protocol, the secretary shall provide a report to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality and the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources regarding the need for a grant of additional statutory authority authorizing the secretary to undertake a review of the certified regulatory programs.
- (2) The secretary may update the protocol, and may update the report provided to the legislative committees pursuant to paragraph (1) and provide, in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code, the updated report to those committees if additional statutory authority is needed.
- (3) The secretary shall provide a significant opportunity for public participation in developing or updating the protocol described in paragraph (1) or (2) including, but not limited to, at least two public meetings with interested parties. A notice of each meeting shall be provided at least 10 days prior to the meeting to a person who files a written request for a notice with the agency

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and to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality and the
 Assembly Committee on Natural Resources.

- SEC. 8. Section 21083.9 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:
- 21083.9. (a) Notwithstanding Section 21080.4, 21104, or 21153, a lead agency shall conduct at least one public scoping meeting for either of the following:
- (1) A proposed project that may affect highways or other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation if the meeting is requested by the department. The lead agency shall call the scoping meeting as soon as possible, but not later than 30 days after receiving the request from the Department of Transportation.
  - (2) A project of statewide, regional, or areawide significance.
- (b) The lead agency shall provide notice of at least one public scoping meeting held pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) by posting a notice of meeting pursuant to Section 21092.3, and providing copies of the notice to all of the following:
- (1) A county, city, or tribal land that borders on a county or city within which the project is located, unless otherwise designated annually by agreement between the lead agency and the county, city, or tribal government.
  - (2) A responsible agency.

- (3) A public agency that has jurisdiction by law with respect to the project.
- (4) A transportation planning agency or public agency required to be consulted pursuant to Section 21092.4.
- (5) A public agency, organization, or individual who has filed a written request for the notice.
- (c) For a public agency, organization, or individual that is required to be provided notice of a lead agency public meeting, the requirement for notice of a scoping meeting pursuant to subdivision (b) may be met by including the notice of a scoping meeting in the public meeting notice.
- (d) A public scoping meeting that is held in the city or county within which the project is located pursuant to the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 4321 et seq.) and the regulations adopted pursuant to that act shall be deemed to satisfy the requirement that a public scoping meeting be held

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for a project subject to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) if the lead agency meets the notice requirements of subdivision (b) or (c).

- (e) The referral of a proposed action to adopt or substantially amend a general plan to a city or county pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 65352 of the Government Code may be conducted concurrently with the public scoping meeting required pursuant to this section, and the city or county may submit its comments as provided pursuant to subdivision (b) of that section at the public scoping meeting.
- SEC. 9. Section 21092 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:
- 21092. (a) A lead agency that is preparing an environmental impact report or a negative declaration or making a determination pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 21157.1 shall provide public notice of that fact within a reasonable period of time prior to certification of the environmental impact report, adoption of the negative declaration, or making the determination pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 21157.1.
- (b) (1) The notice shall specify the period during which comments will be received on the draft environmental impact report or negative declaration, and shall include the date, time, and place of any public meetings or hearings on the proposed project, a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the significant effects on the environment, if any, anticipated as a result of the project, the address where copies of the draft environmental impact report or negative declaration, and all documents referenced in the draft environmental impact report or negative declaration, are available for review, and a description of how the draft environmental impact report or negative declaration can be provided in an electronic format.
- (2) This section shall not be construed in any manner that results in the invalidation of an action because of the alleged inadequacy of the notice content if there has been substantial compliance with the notice content requirements of this section.
- (3) The notice required by this section shall be filed and posted pursuant to Section 21092.3 and given to the last known name and address of all organizations and individuals who have previously requested notice, and shall also be given by at least one of the following procedures:

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(A) Publication, no fewer times than required by Section 6061 of the Government Code, by the public agency in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected by the proposed project. If more than one area will be affected, the notice shall be published in the newspaper of largest circulation from among the newspapers of general circulation in those areas.

- (B) Posting of notice by the lead agency on- and off-site in the area where the project is to be located.
- (C) Direct mailing to the owners and occupants of contiguous property shown on the latest equalized assessment roll.
- (c) For a project involving the burning of municipal wastes, hazardous waste, or refuse-derived fuel, including, but not limited to, tires, meeting the qualifications of subdivision (d), notice shall be given to all organizations and individuals who have previously requested notice and shall also be given by at least the procedures specified in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b). In addition, notification shall be given by direct mailing to the owners and occupants of property within one-fourth of a mile of any parcel or parcels on which is located a project subject to this subdivision.
- (d) The notice requirements of subdivision (c) apply to both of the following:
  - (1) The construction of a new facility.

- (2) The expansion of an existing facility that burns hazardous waste which would increase its permitted capacity by more than 10 percent. For purposes of this paragraph, the amount of expansion of an existing facility shall be calculated by comparing the proposed facility capacity with whichever of the following is applicable:
- (A) The facility capacity approved in the facility's hazardous waste facilities permit pursuant to Section 25200 of the Health and Safety Code or its grant of interim status pursuant to Section 25200.5 of the Health and Safety Code, or the facility capacity authorized in any state or local agency permit allowing the construction or operation of a facility for the burning of hazardous waste, granted before January 1, 1990.
- (B) The facility capacity authorized in the facility's original hazardous waste facilities permit, grant of interim status, or any state or local agency permit allowing the construction or operation

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of a facility for the burning of hazardous waste, granted on or after January 1, 1990.

(e) The notice requirements specified in subdivision (b) or (c)

- (e) The notice requirements specified in subdivision (b) or (c) shall not preclude a public agency from providing additional notice by other means if the agency so desires, or from providing the public notice required by this section at the same time and in the same manner as public notice otherwise required by law for the project.
- SEC. 10. Section 21092.2 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:
- 21092.2. (a) The notices required pursuant to Sections 21080.4, 21080.5, 21083.9, 21092, 21108, 21152, and 21161 shall be mailed to every person who has filed a written request for notices with either the clerk of the governing body or, if there is no governing body, the director of the agency. If the agency offers to provide the notices by email, upon filing a written request for notices, a person may request that the notices be provided to him or her by email. The request may also be filed with any other person designated by the governing body or director to receive these requests. The agency may require requests for notices to be annually renewed. The public agency may charge a fee, except to other public agencies, that is reasonably related to the costs of providing this service.
- (b) Subdivision (a) shall not be construed in any manner that results in the invalidation of an action because of the failure of a person to receive a requested notice, if there has been substantial compliance with the requirements of this section.
- (c) The notices required pursuant to Sections 21080.4 and 21161 shall be provided by the State Clearinghouse to any legislator in whose district the project has an environmental impact, if the legislator requests the notice and the State Clearinghouse has received it.
- SEC. 11. Section 21092.3 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:
- 21092.3. (a) The notices required pursuant to Sections 21080.4, 21080.5, 21083.9, 21092, 21108, 21152, and 21161 shall be filed with and posted for public review in the office of the county clerk of each county in which the project will be located and shall remain posted for a period of at least 30 days or the full duration of any time period under this division that may commence upon the filing

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of the notice, whichever is longer. The clerk shall, thereafter, return the notice to the filing agency with a notation of the period it was posted. The county clerk shall post the notices within one business day of receipt and shall stamp on the notice the date on which it was actually posted for public review.

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- (b) The notices required pursuant to Sections 21080.4, 21080.5, 21083.9, 21092, 21108, 21152, and 21161 shall be filed with, and posted on, a publicly available, online database established and maintained by the Office of Planning and Research. The online database shall include the capability to view and download the notices in the form filed with the Office of Planning and Research. Notices filed in the online database shall be stamped by the Office of Planning and Research with the date on which they were actually posted for online review by the public, and shall remain electronically available in the database for a minimum of 10 years. The Office of Planning and Research shall retain the physical copy of the notice for at least 30 days or for the full duration of a time period required pursuant to this division that may commence upon the filing of the notice, whichever is longer. The Office of Planning and Research shall, thereafter, return the notice to the filing agency with a notation of the period it was posted. The Office of Planning and Research shall post the notices in its online database within one business day of receipt. The Office of Planning and Research may require the agency filing the notice to pay an administrative fee not to exceed ten dollars (\$10) per notice filed for the purposes of maintaining its online database and implementing its duties under this section. The agency filing the notice may recover its filing costs from the person specified in subdivision (b) or (c) of Section 21065, as reflected in the agency's record of proceedings.
- (c) Any time periods or limitation periods established under this division that are subject to the notices posted under this section shall not commence until the notice is actually posted for public review by the county clerk and in the online database maintained by the Office of Planning and Research. If the county clerk and the Office of Planning and Research posts the notice on different days, the time period shall run from the date of the later posting.
- (d) For the purposes of this section, "business days" does not include Saturday, Sunday, or a day observed as a holiday by the state government.

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1 SEC. 12. Section 21100 of the Public Resources Code is 2 amended to read:

- 21100. (a) All lead agencies shall prepare, or cause to be prepared by contract, and certify the completion of, an environmental impact report on any project which they propose to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment. Whenever feasible, a standard format shall be used for environmental impact reports.
- (b) The environmental impact report shall include a detailed statement setting forth all of the following:
- (1) All significant effects on the environment of the proposed project.
  - (2) In a separate section:
- (A) Any significant effect on the environment that cannot be avoided if the project is implemented.
- (B) Any significant effect on the environment that would be irreversible if the project is implemented.
- (3) Mitigation measures proposed to minimize significant effects on the environment, including, but not limited to, measures to reduce the wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary consumption of energy.
  - (4) Alternatives to the proposed project.
  - (5) The growth-inducing impact of the proposed project.
- (6) Any significant effects that may result from locating development the proposed project near, or attracting people to, existing or reasonably foreseeable natural hazards or adverse environmental conditions.
- (c) The report shall also contain a statement briefly indicating the reasons for determining that various effects on the environment of a project are not significant and consequently have not been discussed in detail in the environmental impact report.
- (d) For purposes of this section, any significant effect on the environment shall be limited to substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse changes in physical conditions which exist within the area as defined in Section 21060.5.
- (e) Previously approved land use documents, including, but not limited to, general plans, specific plans, and local coastal plans, may be used in cumulative impact analysis.
- 39 SEC. 13. Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code is 40 amended to read:

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21108. (a) If a state agency approves or determines to carry out a project that is subject to this division, the state agency shall file notice of that approval or that determination with the Office of Planning and Research and with the county clerk of each county in which the project will be located. The notice shall identify the person or persons in subdivision (b) or (c) of Section 21065, as reflected in the agency's record of proceedings, and indicate the determination of the state agency whether the project will, or will not, have a significant effect on the environment and shall indicate whether an environmental impact report has been prepared pursuant to this division.

(b) If a state agency determines that a project is not subject to this division pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 21080 or Section 21172, and the state agency approves or determines to carry out the project, the state agency may file notice of the determination with the county clerk of each county in which the project will be located and the Office of Planning and Research. A notice filed pursuant to this subdivision shall identify the person or persons in subdivision (b) or (c) of Section 21065, as reflected in the agency's record of proceedings. A notice filed pursuant to this subdivision by a person specified in subdivision (b) or (c) of Section 21065 shall have a certificate of determination attached to it issued by the state agency responsible for making the determination that the project is not subject to this division pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 21080 or pursuant to Section 21172. The certificate of determination may be in the form of a certified copy of an existing document or record of the state agency.

SEC. 14. Section 21152 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

21152. (a) If a local agency approves or determines to carry out a project that is subject to this division, the local agency shall file notice of the approval or the determination within five working days after the approval or determination becomes final, with the county clerk of each county in which the project will be located and with the Office of Planning and Research. The notice shall identify the person or persons in subdivision (b) or (c) of Section 21065, as reflected in the agency's record of proceedings, and indicate the determination of the local agency whether the project will, or will not, have a significant effect on the environment and shall indicate whether an environmental impact report has been

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prepared pursuant to this division. The notice shall also include certification that the final environmental impact report, if one was prepared, together with comments and responses, is available to the general public.

(b) If a local agency determines that a project is not subject to this division pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 21080 or pursuant to Section 21172, and the local agency approves or determines to carry out the project, the local agency may file a notice of the determination with the county clerk of each county in which the project will be located and the Office of Planning and Research. A notice filed pursuant to this subdivision shall identify the person or persons in subdivision (b) or (c) of Section 21065, as reflected in the agency's record of proceedings. A notice filed pursuant to this subdivision shall have a certificate of determination attached to it issued by the local agency responsible for making the determination that the project is not subject to this division pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 21080 or Section 21172. The certificate of determination may be in the form of a certified copy of an existing document or record of the local agency.

SEC. 15. Section 21161 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

21161. Whenever a public agency has completed an environmental impact report, it shall cause a notice of completion of that report to be filed with the county clerk of each county in which the project will be located and the Office of Planning and Research. The notice of completion shall briefly identify the project and shall indicate that an environmental impact report has been prepared. The notice of completion shall identify the project location by latitude and longitude. Failure to file the notice required by this section shall not affect the validity of a project.

SEC. 16. Section 21167.6 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

21167.6. Notwithstanding any other law, in all actions or proceedings brought pursuant to Section 21167, except as provided for in Section 21167.6.2 or those involving the Public Utilities Commission, all of the following shall apply:

(a) At the time that the action or proceeding is filed, the plaintiff or petitioner shall file a request that the respondent public agency prepare the record of proceedings relating to the subject of the action or proceeding. The request, together with the complaint or

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petition, shall be served personally upon the public agency not later than 10 business days from the date that the action or proceeding was filed.

- (b) (1) The public agency shall prepare and certify the record of proceedings not later than 60 days from the date that the request specified in subdivision (a) was served upon the public agency. Upon certification, the public agency shall lodge a copy of the record of proceedings with the court and shall serve on the parties notice that the record of proceedings has been certified and lodged with the court. The parties shall pay any reasonable costs or fees imposed for the preparation of the record of proceedings in conformance with any law or rule of court.
- (2) The plaintiff or petitioner may elect to prepare the record of proceedings or the parties may agree to an alternative method of preparation of the record of proceedings, subject to certification of its accuracy by the public agency, within the time limit specified in this subdivision.
- (c) The time limit established by subdivision (b) may be extended only upon the stipulation of all parties who have been properly served in the action or proceeding or upon order of the court. Extensions shall be liberally granted by the court when the size of the record of proceedings renders infeasible compliance with that time limit. There is no limit on the number of extensions that may be granted by the court, but no single extension shall exceed 60 days unless the court determines that a longer extension is in the public interest.
- (d) If the public agency fails to prepare and certify the record within the time limit established in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), or any continuances of that time limit, the plaintiff or petitioner may move for sanctions, and the court may, upon that motion, grant appropriate sanctions.
- (e) The record of proceedings shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following items:
  - (1) All project application materials.
- (2) All staff reports and related documents prepared by the respondent public agency with respect to its compliance with the substantive and procedural requirements of this division and with respect to the action on the project.
- (3) All staff reports and related documents prepared by the respondent public agency and written testimony or documents

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submitted by any person relevant to any findings or statement of overriding considerations adopted by the respondent agency pursuant to this division.

- (4) Any transcript or minutes of the proceedings at which the decisionmaking body of the respondent public agency heard testimony on, or considered any environmental document on, the project, and any transcript or minutes of proceedings before any advisory body to the respondent public agency that were presented to the decisionmaking body prior to action on the environmental documents or on the project.
- (5) All notices issued by the respondent public agency to comply with this division or with any other law governing the processing and approval of the project.
- (6) All written comments received in response to, or in connection with, environmental documents prepared for the project, including responses to the notice of preparation.
- (7) All written evidence or correspondence submitted to, or transferred from, the respondent public agency with respect to compliance with this division or with respect to the project.
- (8) Any proposed decisions or findings submitted to the decisionmaking body of the respondent public agency by its staff, or the project proponent, project opponents, or other persons.
- (9) The documentation of the final public agency decision, including the final environmental impact report, mitigated negative declaration, or negative declaration, and all documents, in addition to those referenced in paragraph (3), cited or relied on in the findings or in a statement of overriding considerations adopted pursuant to this division.
- (10) Any other written materials relevant to the respondent public agency's compliance with this division or to its decision on the merits of the project, including the initial study, any drafts of any environmental document, or portions thereof, that have been released for public review, and copies of studies or other documents relied upon in any environmental document prepared for the project and either made available to the public during the public review period or included in the respondent public agency's files on the project, and all internal agency communications, including staff notes and memoranda related to the project or to compliance with this division.

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(11) The full written record before any inferior administrative decisionmaking body whose decision was appealed to a superior administrative decisionmaking body prior to the filing of litigation.

- (f) In preparing the record of proceedings, the party preparing the record shall strive to do so at reasonable cost in light of the scope of the record.
- (g) The clerk of the superior court shall prepare and certify the clerk's transcript on appeal not later than 60 days from the date that the notice designating the papers or records to be included in the clerk's transcript was filed with the superior court, if the party or parties pay any costs or fees for the preparation of the clerk's transcript imposed in conformance with any law or rules of court. Nothing in this subdivision precludes an election to proceed by appendix, as provided in Rule 8.124 of the California Rules of Court.
- (h) Extensions of the period for the filing of any brief on appeal may be allowed only by stipulation of the parties or by order of the court for good cause shown. Extensions for the filing of a brief on appeal shall be limited to one 30-day extension for the preparation of an opening brief, and one 30-day extension for the preparation of a responding brief, except that the court may grant a longer extension or additional extensions if it determines that there is a substantial likelihood of settlement that would avoid the necessity of completing the appeal.
- (i) At the completion of the filing of briefs on appeal, the appellant shall notify the court of the completion of the filing of briefs, whereupon the clerk of the reviewing court shall set the appeal for hearing on the first available calendar date.
- (j) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2017, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2017, deletes or extends that date.
- SEC. 17. Section 21167.6 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:
- 21167.6. Notwithstanding any other law, in all actions or proceedings brought pursuant to Section 21167, except those involving the Public Utilities Commission, all of the following shall apply:
- (a) At the time that the action or proceeding is filed, the plaintiff or petitioner shall file a request that the respondent public agency prepare the record of proceedings relating to the subject of the

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action or proceeding. The request, together with the complaint or petition, shall be served personally upon the public agency not later than 10 business days from the date that the action or proceeding was filed.

- (b) (1) The public agency shall prepare and certify the record of proceedings not later than 60 days from the date that the request specified in subdivision (a) was served upon the public agency. Upon certification, the public agency shall lodge a copy of the record of proceedings with the court and shall serve on the parties notice that the record of proceedings has been certified and lodged with the court. The parties shall pay any reasonable costs or fees imposed for the preparation of the record of proceedings in conformance with any law or rule of court.
- (2) The plaintiff or petitioner may elect to prepare the record of proceedings or the parties may agree to an alternative method of preparation of the record of proceedings, subject to certification of its accuracy by the public agency, within the time limit specified in this subdivision.
- (c) The time limit established by subdivision (b) may be extended only upon the stipulation of all parties who have been properly served in the action or proceeding or upon order of the court. Extensions shall be liberally granted by the court when the size of the record of proceedings renders infeasible compliance with that time limit. There is no limit on the number of extensions that may be granted by the court, but no single extension shall exceed 60 days unless the court determines that a longer extension is in the public interest.
- (d) If the public agency fails to prepare and certify the record within the time limit established in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), or any continuances of that time limit, the plaintiff or petitioner may move for sanctions, and the court may, upon that motion, grant appropriate sanctions.
- (e) The record of proceedings shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following items:
  - (1) All project application materials.
- (2) All staff reports and related documents prepared by the respondent public agency with respect to its compliance with the substantive and procedural requirements of this division and with respect to the action on the project.

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(3) All staff reports and related documents prepared by the respondent public agency and written testimony or documents submitted by any person relevant to any findings or statement of overriding considerations adopted by the respondent agency pursuant to this division.

- (4) Any transcript or minutes of the proceedings at which the decisionmaking body of the respondent public agency heard testimony on, or considered any environmental document on, the project, and any transcript or minutes of proceedings before any advisory body to the respondent public agency that were presented to the decisionmaking body prior to action on the environmental documents or on the project.
- (5) All notices issued by the respondent public agency to comply with this division or with any other law governing the processing and approval of the project.
- (6) All written comments received in response to, or in connection with, environmental documents prepared for the project, including responses to the notice of preparation.
- (7) All written evidence or correspondence submitted to, or transferred from, the respondent public agency with respect to compliance with this division or with respect to the project.
- (8) Any proposed decisions or findings submitted to the decisionmaking body of the respondent public agency by its staff, or the project proponent, project opponents, or other persons.
- (9) The documentation of the final public agency decision, including the final environmental impact report, mitigated negative declaration, or negative declaration, and all documents, in addition to those referenced in paragraph (3), cited or relied on in the findings or in a statement of overriding considerations adopted pursuant to this division.
- (10) Any other written materials relevant to the respondent public agency's compliance with this division or to its decision on the merits of the project, including the initial study, any drafts of any environmental document, or portions thereof, that have been released for public review, and copies of studies or other documents relied upon in any environmental document prepared for the project and either made available to the public during the public review period or included in the respondent public agency's files on the project, and all internal agency communications, including staff

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notes and memoranda related to the project or to compliance with this division.

- (11) The full written record before any inferior administrative decisionmaking body whose decision was appealed to a superior administrative decisionmaking body prior to the filing of litigation.
- (f) In preparing the record of proceedings, the party preparing the record shall strive to do so at reasonable cost in light of the scope of the record.
- (g) The clerk of the superior court shall prepare and certify the clerk's transcript on appeal not later than 60 days from the date that the notice designating the papers or records to be included in the clerk's transcript was filed with the superior court, if the party or parties pay any costs or fees for the preparation of the clerk's transcript imposed in conformance with any law or rules of court. Nothing in this subdivision precludes an election to proceed by appendix, as provided in Rule 8.124 of the California Rules of Court.
- (h) Extensions of the period for the filing of any brief on appeal may be allowed only by stipulation of the parties or by order of the court for good cause shown. Extensions for the filing of a brief on appeal shall be limited to one 30-day extension for the preparation of an opening brief, and one 30-day extension for the preparation of a responding brief, except that the court may grant a longer extension or additional extensions if it determines that there is a substantial likelihood of settlement that would avoid the necessity of completing the appeal.
- (i) At the completion of the filing of briefs on appeal, the appellant shall notify the court of the completion of the filing of briefs, whereupon the clerk of the reviewing court shall set the appeal for hearing on the first available calendar date.
  - (i) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2017.
- SEC. 18. Section 21167.6.2 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:
- 21167.6.2. (a) (1) Notwithstanding Section 21167.6, for a project described in subdivision (f), upon the written request of a project applicant received no later than 30 days after the date that a lead agency makes a determination pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 21080.1, Section 21094.5, or Chapter 4.2 (commencing with Section 21155), the lead agency shall prepare and certify the record of proceedings in the following manner:

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(A) The lead agency for the project shall prepare the record of proceedings pursuant to this division concurrently with the administrative process.

- (B) All documents and other materials placed in the record of proceedings that are not otherwise exempted from public disclosure shall be posted on, and be downloadable from, an Internet Web site maintained by the lead agency commencing with the date of the release of the draft environmental document for a project specified in subdivision (f). If the lead agency cannot maintain an Internet Web site with the information required pursuant to this section, the lead agency shall provide a link on the agency's Internet Web site to that information.
- (C) The lead agency shall make available to the public, in a readily accessible electronic format, the draft environmental document for a project specified in subdivision (f) and all other documents submitted to, cited by, or relied on by, the lead agency in the preparation of the draft environmental document for a project specified in subdivision (f).
- (D) A document prepared by the lead agency or submitted by the applicant after the date of the release of the draft environmental document for a project specified in subdivision (f) that is a part of the record of the proceedings shall be made available to the public in a readily accessible electronic format within five business days after the document is released or received by the lead agency.
- (E) The lead agency shall encourage written comments on the project to be submitted in a readily accessible electronic format, and shall make any comment available to the public in a readily accessible electronic format within five days of its receipt.
- (F) Within seven business days after the receipt of any comment that is not in an electronic format, the lead agency shall convert that comment into a readily accessible electronic format and make it available to the public in that format.
- (G) The lead agency shall certify the record of proceedings within 30 days after the filing of the notice required pursuant to Section 21108 or 21152.
- (2) This subdivision does not require the disclosure or posting of a trade secret, as defined in Section 6254.7 of the Government Code, information about the location of archaeological sites or sacred lands, or other information that is subject to the exemption

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1 from disclosures specified in Section 6254 of the Government 2 Code.

- (b) Any dispute regarding the record of proceedings shall be resolved by the court in an action or proceeding brought pursuant to Section 21167. The parties shall meet and confer in good-faith effort to resolve any dispute before seeking resolution in court.
- (c) The content of the record of proceedings shall be as specified in subdivision (e) of Section 21167.6.
- (d) Subdivisions (g) to (i), inclusive, of Section 21167.6 are applicable to an appeal of a decision in an action or proceeding brought pursuant to Section 21167.
- (e) The negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, draft and final environmental impact report, or other environmental document for a project specified in subdivision (f) shall include a notice in no less than 12-point type stating the following:

FORMAT."

"THIS NEGATIVE DECLARATION, MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, EIR, OR ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT IS SUBJECT TO SECTION 21167.6.2 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE, WHICH REQUIRES THE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THIS PROJECT TO BE PREPARED CONCURRENTLY WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS, DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY, OR SUBMITTED TO, THE LEAD AGENCY TO BE POSTED ON THE LEAD AGENCY'S INTERNET WEB SITE, AND THE LEAD AGENCY TO ENCOURAGE WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE PROJECT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE LEAD AGENCY IN A READILY ACCESSIBLE ELECTRONIC

- (f) This section applies to the record of proceedings for the preparation of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, environmental impact report, or other environmental document prepared for any of the following:
- (1) A project determined to be of statewide, regional, or areawide environmental significance pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 21083.
- 38 (2) A project subject to Section 21094.5 or Chapter 4.2 (commencing with Section 21155).

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(3) (A) A project, other than one described in paragraphs (1) and (2), for which the lead agency consents to prepare the record of proceedings pursuant to this paragraph.

- (B) The lead agency shall respond to a request by the project applicant within 10 business days from the date that the request pursuant to subdivision (a) is received by the lead agency.
- (C) A project applicant and the lead agency may mutually agree, in writing, to extend the time period for the lead agency to respond pursuant to subparagraph (B), but they shall not extend that period beyond the commencement of the public review period for the proposed negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or draft environmental impact report.
- (D) The request to prepare a record of proceedings pursuant to this paragraph shall be deemed denied if the lead agency fails to respond within 10 business days of receiving the request or within the time period agreed upon pursuant to subparagraph (C), whichever ends later.
- (g) For a lead agency that is a state agency, the preparation of the record of proceedings pursuant to this section applies if the state agency consents to the preparation of the record of proceedings pursuant to this section.
- (h) The written request of the applicant submitted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall include an agreement to pay all of the lead agency's costs in preparing and certifying the record of proceedings pursuant to this section and complying with the requirements of this section in a manner specified by the lead agency.
- (i) The costs of preparing the record of proceedings pursuant to this section and complying with the requirements of this section are not recoverable costs pursuant to Section 1033 of the Code of Civil Procedure.
- (j) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2017, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2017, deletes or extends that date.

34 SEC. 19.

SEC. 16. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIIIB of the California Constitution because a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or

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- level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code.